

## **IFF: Forskersamtaler med Ph.d.-studentene i 2023**

The report is based on interviews with our PhD students Kaja Jenssen Rathe, Kristoffer S. Mällberg, Sara Toffanin, and Erik Westad Strømsheim. The PhD interview with Maria Danielsen was conducted by Tor Ivar Hanstad (Head of Department).

### **1. Opplæringsdelen**

#### ***a. Kvaliteten på kurs***

By and large, the students were satisfied with the quality of the mandatory PhD courses offered by UiT. One student mentioned that he thought the course on 'Research Dissemination' was very good. The students also praised courses they attended elsewhere, for instance a course on 'Migration and Temporality' held at *The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)*.

#### ***b. Kurs og kompetanser du gjerne skulle hatt innenfor opplæringsdelen av stillingen***

Some of our students would appreciate it if PhD courses addressed or included their research interests, for example Phenomenology, Virtue Ethics, Environmental Ethics. One student pointed out that there are simply not enough interesting PhD courses taught at UiT.

### **2. Pliktarbeid**

#### ***a. Omfang, planlegging og relevans***

Our PhD students were happy with the obligatory work (*pliktarbeid*) they do for our department.

#### ***b. Undervisningserfaring***

All our PhD students are happy to teach; they see this opportunity as a privilege.

### **3. Veiledning**

#### ***a. Erfaringer med hoved- og biveiledningen***

Most of our PhD students expressed satisfaction with their supervisors. They said that they got regular feedback and received helpful advice from both their main and their second supervisors. One student reported difficulties in dealing with the main supervisor but added that these could be resolved. Another student spoke of improvements that had taken place in the relationship with the main supervisor. Too

much control exerted by the supervisor has been replaced by the possibility of independent work. As a result, the student feels at ease now and is making good progress.

#### ***b. Planlegging og forutsigbarhet i arbeidsprosessen***

Most of our PhD students pursue a clear objective while working on their theses. All of them understand where they currently stand. One of our students is struggling to find the appropriate methodological approach to the PhD project she is pursuing. Another student is working full time as a *studiekonsulent* outside Tromsø. Even though he is employed full time and, in addition, is struggling with health problems, he plans to submit his doctoral thesis as soon as possible (either this year or next).

### **4. Økonomi**

#### ***a. Rammebetingelser for å gjennomføre prosjektet***

Our PhD students appreciate the working environment at IFF.

#### ***b. Interne og eksterne tilleggssøknader***

One of our PhD candidates received a faculty scholarship in support of a research stay abroad.

### **5. Fagmiljø, samarbeid**

#### ***a. Ulike fagmiljø du er knyttet til, nettverk, instituttets forskningsseminarer***

All our PhD candidates were happy with the IFF research groups and the research environment that IFF provides. One student emphasised that she valued the research groups not only professionally but also socially.

#### ***b. Ph.d.-nettverk***

In addition to being part of the IFF network, our PhD candidates try to build their own individual networks. These networks do not only extend to Norway but also to other places, for instance research environments based in various European countries or in the U.S.

#### ***c. Utenlandsopphold, konferansedeltakelse***

Some of our PhD students are planning research stays abroad – in the U.S. or other European countries such as France, Germany, or Italy.

Our students participated in conferences and workshops both in Tromsø (*Arctic Frontiers, Good Integration*) and elsewhere.

## **6. Arbeidsmiljø og ledelse**

### ***a. Enheten, instituttet og universitet generelt***

The students were happy and appreciative. They enjoy working at IFF and are content with the leadership. Our PhD students feel supported.

### ***b. UiT som arbeidsgiver***

Ditto.

## **7. Ferdigstilling**

### ***a. Framdriftsplan***

Our PhD students seem on track. Concerning individual problems, see above (cf. 3.b).

### ***b. Midtveis-evaluering***

The students who have it coming up are planning a *midtveis-evaluering* together with their supervisors.

## **8. Veien videre...**

### ***a. Publikasjoner***

Our current PhD students write article-based dissertations. Some try to get articles published before submitting their PhD theses. One student recently succeeded in this endeavour: She published her article 'Forever Foreigners: The Temporality of Immigrant Indebtedness' in the *Journal of the British Society of Phenomenology*.

### ***b. Jobbmuligheter***

Most of our students are not yet preoccupied with this question. They focus on completing their respective PhD projects without delay -- which is quite a challenge given tight time frames.